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**TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: Executive Branch Departments and Programs
Judicial Branch
Nation's Districts
Members of the Public

FROM: Chairwoman Wavalene Saunders, *Wavalene M. Saunders*
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Tohono O'odham Legislative Council

CC: Vice Chairwoman Marlakay Henry, Marlakay.Henry@tonation-nsn.gov
Tohono O'odham Legislative Representatives

DATE: October 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Encouraging Use of O'odham Ñi'okĩ by Presenters During Council Sessions

As a reminder, the Legislative Council approved amendments to the Legislative Rules of the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council requiring debate and presentations to Council to be conducted in the O'odham ñi'okĩ "to the maximum extent possible." Legislative Order No. 23-022 adopting the January 2023 Amendments to the Legislative Rules became effective January 12, 2023. The Rules have also required for many years that non-O'odham speakers "may provide an interpreter or translator."

The Legislative Council once again encourages the Nation's departments and programs, other branches of government, districts, and all other individuals who appear before the Legislative Council to speak the O'odham language ("O'odham ñi'okĩ") during Council presentations. While the Council understands that presenters' ability to speak O'odham vary, the Council strongly encourages all presenters to speak the O'odham ñi'okĩ during their presentations to the best of their ability and recommends bringing an interpreter both to translate into O'odham as necessary and to assist with any questions posed to the presenters in the O'odham ñi'okĩ.

The Council appreciates everyone's efforts thus far to help achieve the critical goal of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation to "preserve, protect and build upon our unique and distinctive culture and traditions" by speaking our O'odham ñi'okĩ (Constitution, Preamble <https://www.tolc-nsn.gov/docs/Constitution.pdf>.) Thank you.